

### how often is spraying done?

On the average, rights-of-way are sprayed once every five years. In some parts of the province chemicals are applied during the winter months, but the majority of the work is done from May to August.

### effect on wildlife

After the first spray has been applied, a plant community consisting of grasses, herbaceous plants and sedges becomes established on the right-of-way. Successive selective applications of herbicide encourage this low-growing vegetative cover, while at the same time controlling tall-growing woody species. Animal forage is not as plentiful in wooded areas as in open spaces. For this reason many animals frequent the rights-of-way, and there is no indication that any have suffered ill-effects from the spray program. Similar results have been apparent in the United States and elsewhere where research has been done in this field.

### tree trimming and removal

Hydro's Forestry Department is one of the most progressive of any North American utility, employing about 500 people with a wide scope of activities. Crews are constantly kept busy trimming branches and removing dead or hazardous trees. About 700,000 trees are involved in this program each year.

If trees are not trimmed regularly they may cause power interruptions or serious accidents.



### other activities

Hydro foresters are engaged in detailed research into ways and means of beautifying rights-of-way for the benefit of all. A tree farm has been established near the Pickering power plant, east of Toronto, and is used to test growth inhibitors and to develop trees that will be compatible with overhead power lines. With the increasing emphasis on the environment, Hydro's Forestry Department is becoming involved with design work in connection with new rights-of-way. Tree screens are being planted to improve the appearance of existing power lines. Special grass seed is being sown and landscaping at power and transformer stations is taking on new importance.

Hopefully, research at the tree farm will enable Hydro to cut down on its spraying programs in the future. Alternatives to the use of herbicides include biological control through grasses and other cover crops.

Meanwhile, the emphasis is on maintaining a high standard of electrical service to Ontario residents. This means keeping transmission lines clear of undesirable vegetation. Through spraying programs, the chances of power failures are reduced, lines are more accessible in case of failures, wildlife benefits from vegetation control, and the areas are aesthetically enhanced to the benefit and enjoyment of all.

*Officials of the Ontario Department of Health concerned with the application of herbicides maintain continuous liaison with Ontario Hydro in respect to spraying programs. It is the opinion of both agencies that, with the technical evidence available, the chemicals and techniques used by Ontario Hydro produce the required results with the maximum safety factor and at a reasonable cost.*

### further information

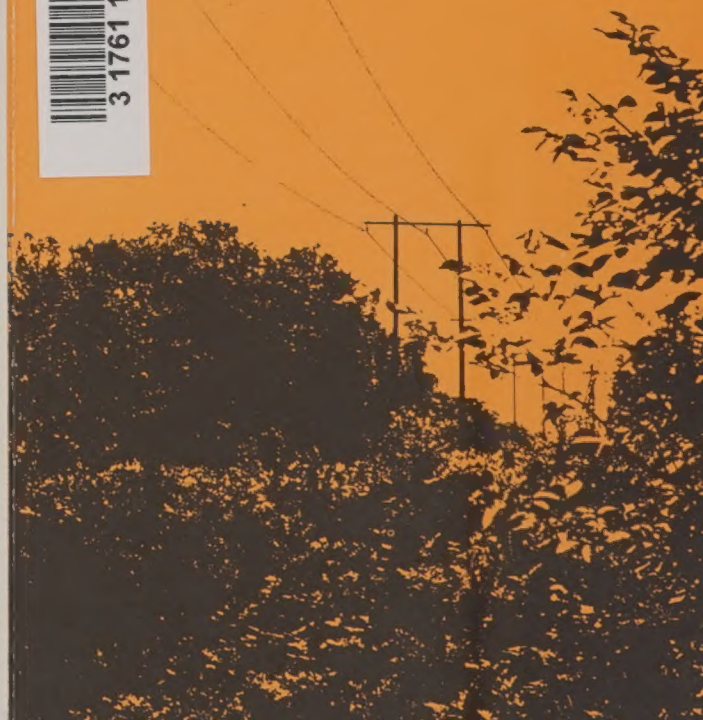
If you wish further information on Hydro's vegetation control programs, please write to

**Ontario Hydro,  
Operations Division, Forestry Department,  
620 University Avenue, Toronto 2, Ontario**



# maintaining hydro rights-of-way

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# maintaining hydro rights-of-way

Electricity is vital to everyone. Without it, most of our normal, everyday activities would grind to a standstill. One only has to look at the chaos which results from even a relatively minor power interruption, to realize that a steady and unimpeded supply of power is indispensable.

About half the interruptions to electrical service that occur in Canada and the United States each year are caused by trees and brush interfering with power lines. Weak or shallow-rooted trees may fall across lines during windstorms, causing outages. Dead limbs may do likewise. Branches swaying in the breeze may brush against wires, causing short circuits. There is also the question of public safety. Trees growing too close to wires can be extremely dangerous. Brush must also be kept under control as a fire safety precaution.

Each year, Hydro spends millions of dollars to control undesirable growth along its rights-of-way and to plant special trees and other vegetation to enhance their appearance. With 70,000 miles of transmission and distribution lines, and 200,000 acres of rights-of-way, vegetation control is a major job. This pamphlet explains how Hydro copes with this task.

## chemical control of vegetation

The use of herbicides has been universally accepted as the most efficient and most economical method of controlling undesirable vegetation. Farmers spray to control weeds in cereal crops, forage crops, corn, soybean, and other food items. They also spray their pastures to eliminate weeds and brush. Orchards are sprayed to eliminate weeds and poison ivy. Forestry tradesmen spray to control brush and noxious weeds. Wildlife management people spray to keep roads and trails open and create "edge effect". Highway and roads authorities spray to eliminate weeds and brush. Telephone, pipeline and electric companies spray to maintain their rights-of-way and the public uses herbicides to eliminate weeds from lawns, patios, and driveways.

## selecting the chemicals

Before any herbicide is adopted for general use by Ontario Hydro, it is thoroughly investigated and put through a careful series of tests in the field to make sure that it is suitable for Commission use.

It must prove to be of low toxicity so that it will be safe for personnel to handle and harmless to domestic

animals and wildlife. It must be practically non-volatile so that it won't vaporize into the atmosphere and drift off the right-of-way to damage vegetation on adjacent land. It must have effective herbicidal properties. It must be easy to apply and be relatively cheap. All chemicals used are registered by federal authorities. The following herbicides meet these requirements and are used by Ontario Hydro:

2, 4-D and 2, 4, 5-T	- used for weed and brush control
TCA	- evergreen brush control
Tordon 101	- control of vegetation in specific mixed brush areas
Amitrol	- poison ivy control

## insecticides

Insecticides have no place in vegetation control and are never used in the chemical spray applied to brush and weeds on Hydro rights-of-way.



Right-of-way spraying is conducted by trained personnel.

## application of chemical sprays

When the Hydro crew moves into your area to spray, there's no need for alarm. All work is done under the strict supervision of experienced, licensed personnel who have passed provincial government examinations. They are kept informed of the latest techniques through continuous on-the-job training and intramural courses, ensuring protection of property, wildlife and the rights-of-way themselves.

Precautionary measures are emphasized in handling and applying chemicals near sensitive crops. These include prevention of drift, the avoidance of spraying water surfaces and the proper disposal of containers. For the most part, spraying is done on the ground with equipment mounted on vehicles. Hydro has conducted considerable research in developing the best machines for the job. Muskeg tractors and other heavy machines have been specially built for the task. Helicopters are used to reach remote areas and special precautions are taken to avoid damaging neighboring vegetation.